



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTES ON *Pseudemys scripta* Schoepff, THE YELLOW-BELLIED TERRAPIN

In this terrapin the plastron is yellow, usually with a single black spot on one or more of the plates, these being nearly always present on the gular plates and less often on some of the others. The spots on the gulars and the plates immediately behind them are round, and usually solid, but occasionally light centered, and in that case might be termed rings rather than spots; those on the posterior plates are usually elongate when present.

The size and number of the spots varies according to locality, North Carolina specimens having them comparatively few in number, while shells from southwestern Georgia have them on nearly all the plates, as well as larger in size.

Thus, to go into details, out of eighty-one Raleigh *scripta*, two had no markings on the plastron, two had a spot on one gular only, fifty had a spot on each gular, while twenty-six had a spot on each of from three to twelve plates, and one had the plastron too darkly stained to distinguish the spots. The average thus was three black spots to the plastron.

Contrast this with the plastral markings of specimens from Mimsville in southwestern Georgia. Out of fifteen specimens examined, one had a spot on each of the gulars and humerals, three with them on ten plates, two on eleven plates, and nine with them on all twelve plates, the markings, in other words, showing a strong approach to those on the plastron of *Pseudemys elegans*, which Siebenrock in his Synopsis considers a race of *scripta*, and which should, in that case, intergrade with *scripta* in this very region. The average per specimen in these fifteen was eleven plates with black spots instead of three as in the Raleigh specimens, and I also made a note at the same time stating that an examination of twenty-four more from the same locality showed the presence of black spots on most of the plastral plates to be usual in specimens from that region.

Besides the markings on the plastron there may also be present rounded or elongate black spots on the inguinal and axillary plates, or on the portions of the pectoral and abdominal plates extending on the bridge. These are usually absent altogether in the specimens with the fewest spots on the plastron and are never present on all the above-named plates on the same shell in any Raleigh specimen I have examined.

This terrapin has become of late years one of the commonest species near Raleigh, the only ones present in greater abundance being the Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta*), and the Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon subrubrum*), and it has recently occurred to me that this increase has taken place since the streams near here have been polluted by the city sewage and the refuse from the dye works at the cotton mills. Formerly the River Terrapin (*Pseudemys concinna*) and the Yellow-belly were about equally common, though neither was at all abundant. Now the former has about disappeared and the latter has become abundant.

Returning to the question of the increase in the plastral markings as one goes southwestward, a possibly analogous case is that of another species we have recently taken at Raleigh, namely, *Pseudemys troostii*, which in all the five specimens so far taken here differs from typical *troostii* from the west in having the plastron practically without markings, except a little dark mottling along some of the sutures and in front, in some of the specimens. Otherwise these five appear to be undoubtedly *troostii* and not *scripta*.

C. S. BRIMLEY,
Raleigh, N. C.